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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Dr. Elias J. Durand, of the University of Missouri, has been appointed professor of botany in the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Helen M. Gilkey, of the University of California, has been appointed assistant professor of botany and curator of the herbarium in the Oregon Agricultural College, to succeed the late H. S. Hammon.

Professor Bethel, of Colorado, has been appointed a pathologist in the Office of Investigations in Forest Pathology.

Dr. L. M. Massey, of Cornell University, is now in extension work on the control of truck crop diseases in New Jersey, with headquarters at New Brunswick.

Mr. G. B. Ramsey, of the Maine Experiment Station, has been appointed extension pathologist in Maine, with headquarters at Orono.

Prof. A. H. Graves has been studying the problem of disease resistance in chestnut trees about New York City, in areas where the canker first appeared, and finds some very interesting things. His results, however, are not yet sufficiently complete for publication.

A double number of the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* for June, 1918, is devoted to the Lactarias of North Carolina by W. C. Coker. As usual, the descriptions are accompanied by very handsome plates. Fifty species are recognized for the state, of which the following are described as new: *L. Allardii, L. subtorminosus, L. furcatus, L. coleopteris, L. Curtisii, L. subplinthogalus,* and *L. lentus.*

Gautieria has been recently studied by S. M. Zeller and C. W. Dodge, and the American species treated in a recent issue of the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*. Five species are recognized, one from Indiana, *G. plumbea*, being described as new.

A canker of poplars and willows caused by *Cytospora chrysosperma* is described by W. H. Long in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for May 6, 1918. The author states that this canker is serious and prevalent throughout the semi-arid regions of the southwestern United States. Methods of control include the use of resistant species, careful tillage, protection, and strict supervision over nursery stock.

Dr. F. C. Stewart, in Bulletin 448 of the New York Agriclutural Experiment Station, fully describes and beautifully illustrates the appearance and habits of *Collybia velutipes*, an edible fungus remarkable for its ability to withstand cold. Dr. Stewart believes that it should be better known and more generally used for food, and he intimates that it may be possible to cultivate it.

Young plants of red cedar, and certain other species of ornamental conifers, have been subject recently to a disease which has caused great loss in a number of nurseries. This seems to be due to a species of *Phoma*, a microscopic parasitic fungus. Spraying has had little effect on controlling its attacks.

It is stated on good authority that nearly 100,000,000 bushels of wheat and oats are destroyed annually by grain smuts, which could easily be prevented by the simple and inexpensive formaldehyde treatment of seed. The tiny spores of the smut-fungus cling to the grains and germinate with them in the soil. Formaldehyde prevents the germination of the spores but does not affect the seed.

English walnuts are often attacked by *Armillaria* root-rot, which spreads from one tree to another through the soil. It has been found that if the dirt is dug away until the graft unions are exposed and cylinders of heavy roofing paper placed around the base of the trees and the soil filled in, that the fungus is prevented from entering the walnut trunk.

The species of *Russula* found in the State of North Carolina have been treated by H. C. Beardslee in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* for January, 1918. Many of the notes and photographs are by Dr. W. C. Coker. The style of treatment is the same as that of other papers on fleshy fungi appearing in this journal. Forty-seven species are recognized, among which the following are described as new: *R. cinerascens, R. magna,* and *R. pungens.*

A disease of narcissus which has been attributed to a species of *Fusarium,* a microscopic fungus, is now known to be due to a nematode. The disease appears first in the neck of the bulbs, causing the leaves at and below the soil to decay and fall over. The nematode may pass from the diseased parent bulb to an offset but does not appear to pass from one bulb to another in storage. Rotation, trap-plants, heat, and spraying solutions are mentioned as preventative and remedial measures.

Bulletin 658 of the United States Department of Agriculture, by James R. Weir and E. E. Hubert, gives an outline of forest disease surveys, which are carried out in conjunction with timber survey projects in order to obtain data of economic value in conducting future sales of the areas in question. The results are recorded on pathological maps, indicating the principal infection areas. Several of the common fungous diseases affecting trees are described and illustrated in this bulletin.

Specimens of *Globifomes graveolens* were recently collected by Professor A. H. Graves on a living red oak trunk near New Dorp, Staten Island. This very curious and interesting tree-destroying fungus was first described from Georgia by Schweinitz and is of rare occurrence on oak, beech, and maple as far north as Pennsylvania and as far west as Iowa. This is the first time it has been found within the local flora range.

A leaf blight of *Kalmia latifolia* is described by Ella Enlows in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for April 15, 1918. This disease is characterized by blight or dry-rot involving large areas either of the leaf blade or of the entire leaf. It may even extend into the stems and eventually kill the entire plant. The fungus involved is described as a new species, *Phomopsis Kalmiae*. Several illustrations accompany the description.

To develop varieties of wheat that will resist black rust, the United States Department of Agriculture is working in cooperation with the state experiment stations of Minnesota, Kansas, Tennessee and Iowa. Rust-resistant durum wheats and other resistant varieties are being crossed on varieties known chiefly for their milling and bread-making qualities to obtain rust-resistant strains of good milling quality. Extensive milling and baking experiments have been made with a number of these hybrids.

The Office of Fruit Disease Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, has recently added the following pathological workers to its staff: for work in cooperation with the Bureau of Markets on the inspection of carload lots of fruits at terminal markets and the identification of diseases affecting such shipments, Dr. B. O. Dodge, formerly an instructor at Columbia University, Mr. H. D. Hendricks, of Anderson, Indiana, and Mr. John G. Hall; for work on the diseases of small fruits, Miss Grace A. Dunn, of Lake Erie College, Ohio, Mr. W. H. Sawyer, Jr., of Lewiston, Maine, and Mr. Arthur N. Wilcox, of Wisconsin University; for work on pecan diseases, Mr. J. B. Demaree, formerly with the State Board of Entomology of Indiana; and for general work on fruit diseases, Professor A. H. Chivers, formerly assistant professor of botany at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

An excellent and handsomely illustrated article on *Fomes officinalis,* by J. H. Faull, appeared in the *Transactions of the Royal Canadian Institute, Toronto,* volume XI. The history, distribution and hosts, chemistry, dissemination, and effect on timber are all fully treated. It produces a red heart-rot of conifers characterized by the removal of the cellulose, by the fracturing of the wood into rectangular masses, and the formation of mycelial sheets in the crevices, the effects being not unlike those caused by *Polyporus Schweinitzii.* It occurs on both living and dead timber and belongs to the group commonly regarded as wound parasites. The range of this species in America is reported by the author to be as follows: British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, Idaho, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Wyoming.

The Report of the State Botanist of New York for 1916, by Dr. H. D. House, formerly a student at the Garden, contains a number of articles of interest to botanists in general. In addition to the usual list of accessions and local flora notes, there is a long list of species of lower fungi, either new or interesting; a list of the fungi of Chautauqua County contributed by Dr. D. R. Sumstine; and a list of the flowering plants and ferns of the Oneida Lake region by Dr. H. D. House. One of the most interesting parts of this report is an ecological treatment by Dr. House of the vegetation of the eastern end of Oneida Lake, which is illustrated with very handsome photographs. *Coriolopsis rigida* is reported on dead limbs and trunks of poplar and the range of the species is said to extend northward to Essex County, New York, southern Ontario, and Wisconsin.

The Office of Cotton, Truck, and Forage Crop Disease Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, has recently appointed Mr. W. S. Porte, of Rutgers College, New Jersey, as scientific assistant in plant pathology, to assist in tomato spraying experiments; Mr. S. L. Dodd, Jr., formerly with the West Virginia State Crop Pest Commission and Agricultural Experiment Station, as extension pathologist in the state of West Virginia, with headquarters at Morgantown; and Mr. G. M. Armstrong, instructor in plant pathology at Clemson College, South Carolina, as extension pathologist in the state of Alabama, with headquarters at Auburn. Mr. C. S. Ridgway, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, has been transferred from assistant in tobacco disease investigations to the position of extension pathologist in the state of Maryland, and Mr. D. C. Neal from the citrous disease investigations of the Bureau of Plant Industry to the leadership of the pathological extension work in Louisiana, with headquarters at Baton Rouge.

The campaign to eradicate the common barberry, which was started by the United States Department of Agriculture last spring, has already met with gratifying results. The common barberry harbors the black, or stem, rust of wheat, oats, barley, and rye, a disease which causes enormous losses in this country. In certain European countries it has been demonstrated that the eradication of the barberry has resulted in a marked decrease in the amount of damage caused by this disease. In central and northwestern states where the campaign is being conducted, public sentiment has been aroused. Nurserymen for the most part have agreed to discontinue distributing common barberry bushes. Park boards in many cities have eradicated them. State nursery inspectors and state entomologists are destroying the bushes wherever stem rust infection is found. Several state councils of defense have issued appeals for the eradication of this barberry, and the public safety commission of Minnesota has issued an order providing for compulsory eradication in that state. The Japanese barberry does not come under the ban, as it does not harbor the rust.